

# DANUBE DELTA – DOBRUDJA AUTUMN TOUR with SAKERTOUR

29 August – 3 September 2016



This juvenile Little Bittern entertained us for about 10 minutes while hunting frogs in the open; Resting waders at Sachalin bay: Dunlin, Broad-billed and Curlew Sandpiper; a tame Red-necked Phalarope at Vadu (*Photos by Zoltán Baczó*)

**Tour leader:** Zoltán Baczó

Danube Delta - Black Sea Coast and Steppe Salt lakes in the Baragan lowland proved again as a superb birding destination in Autumn. Our main goal was to witness primarily bird migration (passerines, raptors, storks, shore birds..) but was also very important to find some of the special breeding birds of the area such as Paddyfield Warbler, Pied and Isabelline Weathear, Pallas`s Gull, Stone Curlew, Levant Sparrowhawk, Saker, Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush.

We had a wonderful, productive week with pleasant, sunny weather and many fantastic sightings. We have encountered a total of 186 bird species which is a great number in this time in Europe!

In the first part of this trip we focused to the Black Sea coastal wetlands and steppe habitats than went along the most Southern branch of the Danube Delta where lakes, channels, riparian woodlands and the Sachalin bay were all fantastic places for watching birds. The tour finished at the Baragan Great Plain where steppe salt lakes were just excellent for watching migrant birds.

I would characterize this tour as a comfortable and highly enjoyable trip as we focused on the very best places for migrants in the right time of the year.



Coastal brackish lake (Photo: Zoltán Baczó)

### **Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> of August**

The handful group arrived to the Bucharest Henri Coanda International Airport well in time so we could visit a nice place in the afternoon by the Sea. The drive down to the coast took 3 hours roughly on the motorway and this time we have seen the first couple of Rollers, Long-legged Buzzards, Kestrels, Bee-eaters, loads of Barn Swallows over the fields, Yellow Wagtails, Red-backed Shirkes.

We arrived to Navodari in the afternoon and visited some shallow brackish lagoon right in the Black Sea. This place was full with birds so we spent an hour or so to identify all of them. Loads of Common Terns flew all over but also Sandwich, Little -, Gull-billed-, Whiskered, Black and White-winged Terns. On the shallow part of the lake Sandpipers and Stints feeds among them the first Broad-billed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpipers, Marsh Sandpiper, Green Shank, Grey Plover, Water Rail, 50+ Pygmy Cormorant, lots of Little Grebes, Shoveler, Garganeys ... excellent start

of the trip. We arrived in time to the accommodation and enjoyed the well deserved cold beer in the open terrace and a delicious dinner.

### **Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> of August**

We have started the day at 6.30 and had a walk around the village. Amongst first a group of Bee-eaters flew across the village, than 2 Golden Orioles were spotted in a Walnut tree, than a Hoopoe were feeding on the ground, Lesser Whitethroat, Willow Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher and the first Red-breasted Flycatcher for the tour was heard but we expecting more today. We walked back to the Hotel for breakfast than continued the day at Histria. This is a famous archeological place in Romania by the Sinoe lake but also a very important birding spot for us. As soon as we arrived we spotted a group of 150 White Pelicans and 4 Dalmatian Pelicans, Spoonbills, several Marsh Harriers, a Hobby, 4 Collared Pratincoles, Curlews, loads of Mediterranean Gulls over the agricultural field and many Red-backed Shrikes, Spotted Flycatchers and Willow Warblers. We went inside a private property with small fishponds and find an obliging Red-breasted Flycatcher. We had brilliant look of it and we could also take some nice pictures too. Red-breasted Flycatchers migrate to India for winter however.

In the way to the next destination we stopped by a bigger lake to check the closer shore and find 4 adult Greater Flamingos. Rarity for the country but was first reported on 20<sup>th</sup> of August. Great find indeed!

Next stop was an abandoned quarry in hope for Weathears and raptors. We were lucky as we found two Isabelline and 7 Pied Weathears and many Northern Weathears but also several Rollers, a distance flock of 120 White Storks, loads of Red-backed Shrikes, a young Woodchat Shrike, Lesser Grey Shrikes, Hoopoe, two Short-toed Eagles, a young Montagu`s Harrier, Levant Sparrowhawk but best of all a Saker Falcon in flight!

The day is not over yet (we had lunch earlier in a roadside restaurant), we drove back to the accommodation than after a little rest we were out again to check a gull roosting site in hope to find the special Pallas`s Gull. We arrived to the site in time and tried to attract Paddyfiled Warbler first. It was a nice windless afternoon and quite quickly seen at least 4 birds and two Reed Warblers. After the warblers we start looking the gulls and counted 128 Pallas`s Gulls in different ages, a first year Baltic Gull and several Caspian Gulls. What a day!



Greater Flamingos (Photo: Joanna Ch. Hay); Red-breasted Flycatcher and Paddyfiled Warbler (Photo: Zoltán Baczó)

## **Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> of August**

Usual pre breakfast walk in the village produced a Syrian Woodpecker, Hoopoe, loads of Sand Martins over the village, a Common Redstart, Spotted Flycatcher, Golden Oriole and a Little Owl from the restaurant terrace.

Today we focused only to Vadu area but our first stop was by the lake Nuntas. We have found again the four Greater Flamingos in the distant shore and also a Citrine Wagtail flew over, 38 Red-necked Phalarope, Black-winged Stilts, Ruffs, loads of Shellducks, Shovelers, Teals. In one moment we heard Bearded Tits and finally found 2 birds, than a Great Reed Warbler, Reed Warbler, Savi`s Warbler and a Paddyfield Warbler too.

Vadu has many interesting corners so rest of the day we checked the whole area and found lots of interesting species like some very obliging Red-necked Phalaropes, more Broad-billed Sandpipers, Marsh Sandpiper, Temminck Stint, Gull-billed Tern, 1000+ Med Gull, 1000+ Avocet, Ferruginous Duck, 200+ Ruddy Shellduck, 200 White Pelicans, Montagu`s Harrier, Red-footed Falcons.

## **Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> of August**

With some great moments we leaving the coastal lagoons behind and start our journey to the proper Danube Delta region.

The usual pre breakfast walk produced more or less similar species than after breakfast we left our Hotel with all the luggage`s. On the way we stopped visiting an extensive forest and found a beautiful male Red-breasted Flycatcher. Time to time his song broke the silence in the woodland. Other species in this forest were Middle Spotted Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker and only heard Black Woodpecker, Marsh Tit, Treecreeper, Hawfinches.

We had a nice picnic lunch break at Murighiol than met with our boat driver Romi in the mini harbor. A calling Olivaceous Warbler was found in the car park and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker sang from the willow canopy.

We packed everything to the boat and started cruising down on the mighty river Danube to Sfantu Gheorghe village. This part of the tour was different but very enjoyable. We didn`t waited much for the first White-tailed Eagle, than a group of Black Storks circled over our heads. In a sandy island Caspian Tern families sat, some of them had red rings indicated the Swedish origin? Whiskered and Black Terns constantly flew over the water, Hobbies chased each other over the river and our first Little Bittern was spotted while catching a frog by the main river. After an hour or so we entered to a lake. Before we arrived to the lake we crossed a nice forest and seen several Kingfishers and a Wood Warbler. The lake had floating vegetation both side and this vegetation were excellent for resting or hunting Squacco Herons, Wood Sandpipers, Whiskered Terns and as many as 12 Little Crakes were also spotted. We arrived in time to Sfantu Gheorghe fishing village, a place with fantastic habitats for birding in the next two days.

## **Wednesday, 31<sup>th</sup> of August**

The usual pre breakfast walk produced a brilliant look of two Glossy Ibises in a wet garden, than Grey-headed and Great Spotted Woodpecker, Sedge Warbler, Long-tailed Tits and Tree Sparrows. We have seen from the distance large flocks of Great Cormorants leaving the roosting place and heading to a feeding areas. We are going to visit this place after breakfast!

We had a tasty breakfast than half an hour later started the birding from our boat. Today the weather was clear but windy, more than 30 km/h wind expected on the sea shore. We crossed a channel first and saw our first Cuckoo of the trip. This time most of the Cuckoos left but Spring/Summer time their song just filling the Delta`s air. Hobbies and Marsh Harriers flew over the reedbed, Grey-headed Woodpecker crossed the channel, than little bit later we arrived to the bay called Sachalin. This shallow bay in the autumn attracts many birds and we are here to witness this spectacle. Squacco Herons, Purple Herons, Whiskered Terns and 3 obliging Ferruginous Duck were in the entrance of the bay. The distant muddy shore was packed with birds so we start boating to that way. The last 20 meters or so we made on foot because in this part was just too shallow. Loads of birds everywhere we look Greylag Goose flew over the bay, hundreds of Gadwalls, Shovelers, Pintails, Teals, Garganeys, 400+ White Pelicans, 60 Dalmatian Pelicans, 3000+ Great Cormorant, 200+ Black-tailed Goodwits, Redshanks, Greenshanks, Avocets, Ringed Plovers, Little Ringed Plovers, Kentish Plover, Grey Plovers, Dunlins, Curlew Sandpipers, Broad-billed Sandpipers, Turnstone, Bar-tailed Goodwits, Whimbrel, 48 Pallas`s Gulls, a distant Arctic Skua, more than thousand Sandwich Tern, 500+ Common Terns, 80 Caspian Terns and a very interesting 2<sup>nd</sup> summer eastern Common Tern or an Arctic Tern. In the strong wind most of the birds were much easier approachable.

We went back to the accommodation for dinner and had a little rest too. In the afternoon we did visit another but smaller wetland site and a coastal woodland. In the wetland site we found a flock of 37 Black-winged Stilts, Yellow Wagtails, Caspian Tern, Gull-billed Tern. By the channel we found 1 adult male and 2 young Little Bitterns. The male was still feeding the young`s in this time.

In the woodland site with dense bushes were great for passerines and we found several Red-breasted Flycatchers, Spotted Flycatchers, the only Collared Flycatcher for the trip, Willow Warblers, Lesser Whitethroat, a Turtle Dove, 4 Grey-headed Woodpeckers, Red-backed Shrikes.

## **Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> of September**

Today was sunny with maximum of 25 degrees Celsius. We started the day with the usual pre breakfast walk. We found in the wet garden the two Glossy Ibis but also 2 Spoonbills and Wood Sandpipers, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler and Great Reed Warbler.

After the breakfast we started the day in the same area we have been yesterday afternoon. Along the channel we found 2 hunting young Little Bitterns and one of them were very obliging and allowed us to watch him for longer time. This young left the nest just recently but had a very efficient hunting technique. In front of us got 3 frogs within minutes. Definitely he needed food before his long migration to Africa. In the woodland area today we could spent longer time. Over the woodland Hobbies and an adult White-tailed Eagle were spotted. Two Lesser Spotted

Woodpecker were seen and several more heard but also 5 Grey-headed Woodpeckers, a Great Spotted Woodpecker, two Rollers, a Cuckoo, several Kingfisher by the channel, Song Thrush, Red-breasted Flycatcher, lots of Willow Warblers, Golden Oriole and a Great Sooty Satyr butterfly.

In the afternoon we visited again the Sachalin bay. Our first impression was that birds were more widespread and flew earlier than yesterday. We have seen more or less the same sort of species but in a different light and wind conditions. New species on the list was the Slender-billed Gull and Common Gull. It was really a joy to admire shorebirds in such a close range and in a wonderful afternoon light.

### **Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> of September**

It was our last day in the Danube Delta. During the pre breakfast walk we visited the local fish market where we could see the local sea fisherman's catch and had a walk inside the village too. We found a nice Black Redstart, Tree Pipit, Goldfinches, Red-backed Shrike and lots of Collared Doves.

After breakfast with all the luggage's start driving back to Murighiol. When we left Sfantu Gheorghe harbor a young Honey Buzzard flew low over our heads. Nice view indeed and the only sighting of the tour.

The drive back to Murighiol was quick because we needed time to reach Macin area in time. Before dinner we stopped in a mixed oak forest and found at least two Sombre Tits, Middle Spotted Woodpecker, Hoopoe, Wood Pigeon, Hawfinches and a single Yellowhammer.

We had a tasty dinner in a roadside restaurant than visited shortly the Macin Mountain National Park. Here we had seen Syrian Woodpecker, another brilliant Middle Spotted Woodpecker, two young Levant Sparrowhawk circled over our heads, Long-legged Buzzard, Lesser Spotted Eagle and after a longer search a young Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush too! Excellent!

Our last night was close to Braila city, in the other side of the Danube river. We crossed the Danube with a ferry than found our Hotel by a natural salt lake. Today afternoon we have seen several Red-footed Falcons and Shellducks too.

The restaurant had live music during the dinner so we had a real festive mood during our last dinner. Great!

### **Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> of September**

Our group had a late evening flight so we had extra time for birding today. This regions salt lakes and grasslands are amongst the top birding destinations in Romania and Europe too!

During the pre breakfast walk we found two Common Redstarts, the first Green Woodpecker for the tour, more than 50 Black-necked Grebes on the lake, Spotted Redshanks, Black-winged Stilts, Shellducks, Common Snipes. During the night a Scops Owl sang from the park.

After breakfast we all packed and started the day in a grassland site in search of Dotterels. In this field we have found a Golden Plover, several Red-footed Falcons than a group of 28 adult Dotterels. We could admire these birds through the scope for a while and also noticed how good they were at hiding in an open field.

Today we could visit two more wetland site before we started driving back to Bucharest. This was only possible due to the late evening flight of the participants!

The two lakes visited today held a nice selection of birds in the very last meters of the tour. I would highlight here a group of migrating White Storks, than 48 Spoonbills, 150 White Pelicans, a hunting Osprey, Red-footed Falcons, Collared Pratincole, 20 Kentish Plovers and White-winged Black Terns.

**You can find more pictures under our Danube Delta Birding Blog:**

<https://birdwatchingdanubedelta.wordpress.com/2017/01/19/danube-delta-and-dobrudja-autum-tour-in-2016/>

**A new entry was made about the second summer type Tern seen at Sachalin Bay on 31 of August:**

<https://birdwatchingdanubedelta.wordpress.com/2016/12/19/a-putative-arctic-tern/>

## SYSTEMATIC BIRD LIST

(Total 186 bird species recorded by the group)

**Common Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*: Three were seen and several more heard

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*: More than 200 seen during the trip, most of them at Sachalin bay, in the Danube Delta

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*: 200+ individual were seen during the trip

**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*: more than 200 individual were seen on the Sinoe lake at 29.08.

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*: Common in wetland areas

**Gadwall** *Anas sterpera*: lots seen during the week, most numerous at Sachalin bay were we counted 500 individuals during our visit on 31/08

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*: 7 seen at Sachalin bay than 9 more at Balta Alba lake on the last day

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*: common and numerous

**Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*: Several seen in the lagoons of Black Sea than 300+ at Sachalin bay on 31/08

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*: 6 at Navodari than 100+ seen at Sachalin bay

**Common Teal** *Anas crecca*: over 400 seen during the tour

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*: 150+ seen during the tour but most numerous at Sachalin bay

**Common Pochard** *Aythya ferina*: 30 were seen at Vadu

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*: 2 males were seen at Sachalin bay

**Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina*: 3 females were seen at Navodari on the first day

**Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*: 25 seen at Vadu than 3 young at the Sachalin bay

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*: common

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*: common

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*: 160+ seen during the tour, biggest congregation being at Lake Sarat and Balta Alba

**Dalmatian Pelican** *Pelecanus crispus*: seen in almost every day of the tour but in small numbers. Highest number counted inside the Delta, at Sachalin where we counted 60 individuals

**White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus*: much commoner than Dalmatian, seen almost every day of the tour. Highest numbers were counted at Sachalin where we counted 400+ individuals. A total of 900 seen during the week

**Pygmy Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*: common

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*: very common, 3000+ hunted at Sachalin bay on 31/08

**Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus*: 1 young was seen by the main Danube on 30/08, than a male and 2 young on 31/08 and 2 more young at 31/08 all in the Danube Delta

**Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*: 11 seen during the week

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*: common

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*: seen almost every day of the tour, most numerous at Sachalin where we could count 24 individuals. A total of 40 seen during the week.

**Great White Egret** *Ardea alba*: common

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*: common

**Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides*: 100 + seen mainly at Sachalin bay and Erenciuc lake in the Delta

**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*: 120 seen on 28/08 over the Sitorman Quarry, than 1 at Vadu on 29/08, and 150 more over Balta Alba on the last day

**Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra*: 9 were seen migrating over the Danube Delta

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*: 1 was seen at Vadu than 3 more in the Danube Delta, Sfantu Gheorghe village

**Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*: 9 at Histria on 28/08, 40 at Vadu at 29/08, 27 at Murighiol on 30/08, two at Sachalin, 30 at Lake Sarat and 48 at Lake Amara, so a total of 156 seen during the week

**White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla*: 4 birds seen in the Danube Delta

**Osprey** *Pansion haliaetus*: 3 were seen during the week

**Lesser Spotted Eagle** *Aquila pomarina*: 2 seen over Dobrudja

**Short-toed Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus*: 2 were seen at Sitorman Quarry on 28/08

**Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*: common over wetlands and even over agricultural fields. Seen every day of the tour

**Montagu`s Harrier** *Circus pygargus*: 7 were seen during the week

**Long-legged Buzzard** *Buteo rufinus*: 12 seen during the trip

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*: 16 seen during the week

**Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*: 1 young dark phase was seen at Sfantu Gheorghe, in the Danube Delta on 02/09.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*: 3 were seen during the week

**Levant Sparrowhawk** *Acipiter brevipes*: 1 young bird over Sitorman Quarry on 28/08 than 2 more young circled over the Macin Mountain on 02/09

**Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*: common

**Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus*: seen in Dobrudja and Baragan area. A total of 37 seen during the week

**Eurasian Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*: Common in the Danube Delta

**Saker** *Falco cherrug*: 1 young bird was seen at Sitorman Quarry on 28/08

**European Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*: 1 was seen at Navodari and 1 in lake Erenciuc in the Danube Delta

**Little Crake** *Porzana parva*: 11 juveniles and 1 adult male were seen well inside the Danube Delta at Lake Erenciuc on 30/08

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*: Common

**Common Coot** *Fulica atra*: Common

**Greater Flamingo** *Phoenocopterus ruber*: 4 adult were seen at Lake Nuntasi on 28/08 and 29/08

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*: 11 seen at Sachalin Bay, Danube Delta

**Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*: 1000+ seen at Lake Tasaul, than 50 at Sachalin bay, Danube Delta and 30 at Balta Alba

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*: 72 seen during the trip

**Eurasian Stone Curlew** *Burhinus oediconemus*: 5 were seen at Grindul Lupilor

**Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola*: 4 were seen at Histria, 5 seen at Vadu and 1 at Balta Alba

**Little-ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*: 3 at Navodari and 10+ at Grindul Lupilor

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*: most numerous at Sachalin bay where we counted 80 individuals. A total of 109 were seen during the week

**Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*: one was seen at Sachalin than 20 more at Lake Balta Alba

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarolla*: 62 seen during the tour at Navodari and Sachalin

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*: 1 was seen at Gulianca field on the last day

**Dotterel** *Eudromias morinellus*: 28 adult seen at a traditional moulting site. A real highlight of the tour!

**Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*: common

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*: 6 were seen at Sachalin bay

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*: 170 seen during the tour

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*: 150 seen during the tour

**Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus*: 52 seen during the tour!

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*: 6 were seen at Grindul Lupilor and 1 seen near Sf. Gheorghe, Danube Delta

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*: common

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*: common

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*: 8 were seen during the week

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*: 50 seen during the tour, most numerous at Sachalin bay

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*: over 132 seen at a shallow salt lakes in Sinoe, than in Sachalin and Braila

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*: 37 seen during the trip

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*: 1 was seen at Navodari and 6 more at Sinoe

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*: common

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*: 1 adult and 1 young bird at Sachalin bay on 31/08 and 01/09

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*: 46 seen during the week

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*: 1 was seen at Sachalin on 31/08

**Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*: 21 seen during the week

**Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*: 38 were seen at Nuntas, 13 + 8 at Vadu in different places on 29/08

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*: common

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*: 1 was seen over the Black Sea on 31/08

**Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis*: common on the coast

**Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans*: common

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*: common

**Slender-billed Gull** *Larus genei*: 2 1cy birds at Sachalin bay on 01/09

**Little Gull** *Larus minutus*: 70+ seen during the week

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*: common and numerous

**‘Baltic’ Gull** *Larus fuscus fuscus*: 1 (1cy) was seen at Sinoe and 1 (1cy) at Sachalin bay

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*: 1 immatur was seen at Sachalin bay

**Pallas’s Gull** *Larus ichthyaetus*: a total of 176 seen during the week!

**Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*: 5 were seen at Navodari and 1 at Vadu

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandwicensis*: 1000+ at Sachalin

**Gull-billed Tern** *Sterna nilotica*: 61 were counted during the week

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*: common

**Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia*: over 60 seen at Sinoe, 7 at Vadu, 15 from the boat on the way down to Sfantu Gheorghe and 50+ at Sachalin bay. Many had color, mainly red ring on the leg.

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*: common

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*: several seen in the coastal wetlands at Navodari and Vadu

**White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucoptera*: seen every day of the tour

**Feral Rock Dove** *Columba livia*: common

**Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus*: 6 were seen during the week

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*: 1 was seen during the week

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*: common and numerous

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*: 6 were seen during the week

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*: 3 young bird were seen in the Danube Delta

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*: 2 seen during the week both in Sinoe

**Scops Owl** *Otus scops*: 1 was heard from the Hotel room during our last night at Lake Sarat.

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*: 10 seen in Dobrudja

**Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*: seen mainly in the Danube Delta

**European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*: groups constantly moving South every day

**Roller** *Coracias garrulous*: seen in many places around Dobrudja, Danube Delta and Baragan Plain

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus minor*: 2 were seen at Sfantu Gheorghe and 1 in Murighiol

**Middle Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus medius*: we have heard several time but the best view was in Macin on 02/09

**Syrian Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus syriacus*: 5 was seen well during the week

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus major*: 5 were seen mainly in the Delta

**Black Woodpecker** *Dryocopus martius*: only heard at Babadag woodland on 30/08

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*: 1 male was seen at a park by the Sarat Lake

**Grey-headed Woodpecker** *Picus canus*: 13 seen in total during the week

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*: 11 seen nearby Sinoe

**Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata*: 5 seen during the week

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*: common

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*: common

**House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*: common

**Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*: 6 seen in the first half of the trip

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*: 1 in Vadu and 1 in Sfantu Gheorghe village

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*: common

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*: common migrant

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*: 1 was seen in Horia on 02/09

**Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*: 1 was seen in flight over the Nuntas lake on 29/08

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*: one was heard at Babadag forest on 30/08

**Common Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*: 1 was seen briefly at Sinoe than 2 more were seen at a park by Lake Sarat

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*: 1 seen at Sfantu Gheorghe village

**Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*: 20+ seen in rocky habitats around Dobrudja

**Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellina*: 2 were seen at Sitorman on 28/08

**Pied Wheatear** *Oenanthe pleschanka*: 7 were seen at Sitorman on 28/08

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubicola*: only two seen during the week

**Black Bird** *Turdus merula*: 1 was seen in Babadag

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*: 1 was briefly seen at Sfantu Gheorghe and one more heard at a park by Lake Sarat

**Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush** *Monticola saxatilis*: one was seen well in the Macin Mountains on 02/09

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*: 3 were seen at Babadag

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*: 10+ seen during the week

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*: 3 were seen in the Danube Delta

**Savis`s Warbler** *Locustella luscinioides*: 2 were seen in the reed of Nuntasi lake than one more at Lake Erenciuc

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*: several seen here and there

**Paddyfield Warbler** *Acrocephalus agricola*: 4 were seen at Grindul Lupilor than 1 at Nuntasi Lake

**Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*: 2 were seen at Grindul Lupilor, 2 more at Nuntasi Lake and 1 at Sfantu Gheorghe

**Olivaceous Warbler** *Hippolais pallida*: one was found in Murighiol mini port at 30/08

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*: common migrant in this time of the year

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*: 1 was seen at Lake Erenciuc woodland, Danube Delta

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*: 1 was seen and heard at Lake Erenciuc, inside the Danube Delta and two more at the park of Lake Sarat.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*: common migrant in this time of the year

**Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva*: 15+ seen during the week, common autumn migrant along the Black Sea

**Collared Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicollis*: 1 female was found at Sfantu Gheorghe, Danube Delta on 31/08

**Marsh Tit** *Parus palustris*: 1 was seen and several more heard at Babadag woodland on 30/08

**Great Tit** *Parus major*: common

**Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*: common

**Sombre Tit** *Parus lugubris*: we found two birds but 1 was seen well near Horia on day 02/09

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*: common in the Danube Delta

**Bearded Tit** *Panurus biarmicus*: 2 young birds were found by the Lake Nuntasi

**Penduline Tite** *Remiz pendulinus*: 1 was found at Lake Erenciuc, Danube Delta

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*: several seen and heard near Babadag and Horia woodlands

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*: 1 was seen at Babadag Woodland than another one at Murighiol while we had our picnic lunch by the river Danube

**Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor*: common migrant and roadside bird

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*: in some places the commonest migrant

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*: a young birds was found at the quarry on day 28/08

**Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*: 10+ seen during the week at Babadag and Horia woodlands

**Common Magpie** *Pica pica*: common

**Eurasian Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*: common

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*: common

**Hooded Crow** *Corvus c cornix*: common

**Raven** *Corvus corax*: only 1 were seen at Sitorman on 28/08

**European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*: common, seen in large numbers

**Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*: we had some brilliant views in Sinoe, a total of 11 seen on the tour

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*: common

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*: common

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*: was common nearby Horia woodland

**European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*: several seen here and there

**European Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*: 2 were seen at Horia woodland

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*: seen well at Horia woodland in flight mainly

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus* : only 1 was seen during the week at Histria on 28/08

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citronella*: 1 was seen at Horia on 02/09

**Corn Bunting** *Miliaria calandra*: common farmland bird

**MAMMALS:**

Brown Hare

Black Sea Bottlenose Dolphin

Roe Deer

Souslik

**REPTILES:**

Spur-thighed Tortoise

European Pond Terrapin

Dice Snake

Caspian Whip Snake

Balkan Wall Lizard

Green Lizard

**AMPHIBIANS:**

Edible Frog

Marsh Frog

Fire-bellied Toad

Green Toad

**BUTTERFLIES**

Common Blue

Clouded Yellow

Small White

Painted Lady

Red Admiral

Meadow Brown

Silver-washed Fritillary

Cardinal

Comma

Great Sooty Satyr